CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

August 7, 2012

Senator Darrell Steinberg President Pro Tem – California State Senate State Capitol, Room 205 Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Mark Leno, Chair Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee State Capitol, Room 5019 Sacramento, CA 95814 Assemblymember John A. Perez Speaker – California State Assembly State Capitol, Room 219 Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Budget Committee State Capitol, Room 6026 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Colleagues:

With the recent discovery of budgeting irregularities in the Department of Parks and Recreation, as well as within several other Departments with special funds, it is essential that we thoroughly investigate and remedy the special fund budgeting process to prevent such abuses in the future. As our respective budget committees prepare to hold oversight hearings regarding the recently discovered and apparently improper budget surpluses in the Department of Parks and Recreation, we would like to request that the following representatives be asked to testify and answer questions from committee members at these hearings.

Director, Department of Parks and Recreation or designated senior representatives
Director, Department of Finance or designated senior representatives
Director, Department of Personnel Administration or designated senior representatives
The State Controller or designated senior representatives
The Attorney General or designated senior representatives

Many of these entities have been involved in the investigations and audits initiated following the discovery of the budgetary irregularities. We believe they can assist our committees in providing the most complete understanding of how the subject funds have been secreted and unaccounted for over the past decade, if not longer.

We would also like to request each of the following former officials from the Department of Parks and Recreation be called as witnesses before each of the committees. Additionally, we would request that the individuals named below be placed under oath prior to their presentations and questions by Members of the committees:

Ruth Coleman, Former Director
Manuel Thomas Lopez, Former Deputy Director of Administrative Services
Michael Harris, Former Acting Chief deputy Director
Ann Malcolm, Former Chief Counsel
Jay Walsh, Former Special Assistant to the Director
Becky Brown, Former Budget Officer, Budget Section, Administrative Services Division
Ted Jackson, Former Deputy Director of Operations
Aaron Robertson, Deputy Director of Administrative Services
Arthur Lee, Chief, DPR Audits Office
Richard Wong, Former Chief, DPR Audits Office
Bill Herms, Former Deputy Director

The request for the specifically listed witnesses to be placed under oath appears to be necessary given the conflicting reports provided to the press regarding the department's knowledge of its budget surpluses, and the inability of Members to obtain complete and accurate information from the department surrounding these circumstances.

Respectfully,

BOB HUFF

Senator, District 29

Senate Republican Leader

CONNIE CONWAY

Assemblymember, District 34

Assembly Republican Leader

BILL EMMERSON, VICE-CHAIR

Bin Emmeson

Senator, District 37

Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee

JIM NIELSEN, VICE-CHAIR Assemblymember, District 2

Assembly Budget Committee